

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, BEXP, BU

SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE NUCLEAR REACTORS FOR BULGARIA?

1. EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES OF WESTINGHOUSE CALLED ON EMBASSY NOVEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS BULGARIAN REQUEST FOR COST ESTIMATE TO BE INCLUDED IN NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1976-80) FOR TWO 1,000 MEGAWATT PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS TO BE DELIVERED BY 1982. INITIATIVE CAME FROM DSO MACHINOIMPORT WHICH IMPORTS COMPLETE PLANTS FOR POWER INDUSTRY. WESTINGHOUSE IS NOW IN PROCESS OF CLARIFYING BULGARIAN NEEDS AS WELL AS TRYING TO DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT BULGARIAN INTEREST IS SERIOUS. COMPANY REPS ESTIMATED SALES OF EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY FOR TWO SUCH REACTORS COULD RUN TO \$1 BILLION OVER SEVEN YEAR PERIOD. THEY ALSO INDICATED THEY HAD SHUNTED ASIDE BULGARIAN INTEREST IN FUEL BREEDER REACTOR.

2. WESTINGHOUSE REPS ARE UNAWARE OF ANY COMPETITION ON THIS PROJECT BUT PRESUME THAT WEST GERMANS AND
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POSSIBLY GE, WHICH IS APPARENTLY BIDDING ON A

PROJECT IN ROMANIA, MIGHT ALSO BE ACTIVE. THEY ALSO PRESUMED BULGARIA ASKED WESTINGHOUSE FOR BIDS BECAUSE SOVIET UNION HAS NEVER BUILT REACTORS OF THIS SIZE. WESTINGHOUSE HAS PREVIOUSLY BUILT AND EVIDENTLY NOW OPERATES A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN YUGOSLAVIA.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY WOULD AGREE THAT FOR OBVIOUS REASONS THIS SEEMS TO BE ONE OF MORE UNLIKELY PROJECTS THAT HAS COME OUR WAY IN SOME TIME. IN RESPONSE TO WESTINGHOUSE REQUEST FOR EVALUATION OF BULGARIAN INTENTIONS, EMBOFFS REPLIED THEY WERE AWARE OF GENERAL BULGARIAN POLICY OF INCREASING GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY THROUGH USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, BUT HAD NO FURTHER DETAILS. THEY SPECULATED BULGARIAN MOTIVES COULD RANGE FROM SIMPLY WANTING COST ESTIMATES FOR PLANNING PURPOSE, THROUGH OBTAINING INFORMATION FOR OWN EDUCATION (NOT AN UNCOMMON BULGARIAN PRACTICE), TO HAVING BEEN ASSIGNED ROLE BY USSR AND/OR CEMA. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG REPORTEDLY HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EVEN LARGER PLANT AT KALINGRAD IN THE U.S.S.R. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IN HOW TO REACT TO WESTINGHOUSE NEGOTIATIONS PRESUMING SUBJECT SHOULD ARISE DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB OFFICIALS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE WESTINGHOUSE HAS NOT CONTACTED WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS EXPORT LICENSING REGULATIONS.
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